



Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING REPORT

304 SOMERVILLE AVENUE

P&Z 21-087

HOLISTIC INDUSTRIES, INC. D/B/A LIBERTY CANNABIS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the City of Somerville with a comprehensive report of the Neighborhood Outreach Meeting conducted by Holistic Industries, Inc., D/B/A Liberty Cannabis (“Liberty”) on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, for the proposed Adult Use Marijuana Retail Establishment to be located at 304 Somerville Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

Ward 3 City Councilor, Ben Ewen-Campen, facilitated a virtual meeting and provided a zoom link. The meeting was properly noticed by mail and hand delivery.

ATTENDEES

City of Somerville

Ben Ewen-Campen, Ward 3 City Councilor

Charlotte Leis, Planner, City of Somerville

Representing Liberty

David Cohen, Director of Property Pursuit and Management

John Harrington, Esq., Kerbey Harrington Pinkard LLP

Steve Harrell, Vice President of Retail Operations

Vince Canales, Director of Security

Rabbi James Kahn, Executive Director of Liberty Cannabis Cares

One Beacon St. 25th Floor Boston, MA 02108
Tel: 617 788 3141

1807 Belmont Road NW Suite 207 Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202 265 1276

Sharon Artley, Community Outreach Operations Manager

Jason Adams, Traffic Engineer, McMahon Associates

Dan Hittman, National Director of Licensing and Contracts

General Public

Gabriel Camacho, Director of Politics & Legislation, UFCW 1445

Sean Murphy, Business Agent, UFCW 1445

Stephen Mackey, Somerville Chamber of Commerce

Matthew Holmberg, Liberty employee

MEETING

David Cohen described the history of Holistic Industries, Inc., and presented a series of slides.

Steve Harrell described the employment practices and efforts to hire locally. He also described the purchase process.

Vince Canales described the security protocols and emphasis on hiring locally with an eye to police and military experience. The preference is to hire people who know the neighborhood.

James Kahn described Holistic Industries' commitment to Somerville and social change.

Sharon Artley described Holistic Industries Inc.'s community outreach program "Liberty Cannabis Cares".

The Meeting was then opened to the Public

Gabriel Camacho and Sean Murphy spoke to express that their Union, UFCW 1445, wanted Liberty to thrive, but noted that their union was negotiating a collective bargaining agreement and that the City of Somerville should value equity and achieving a fair union contract as the most important factor.

Liberty's Response- Holistic Industries and UFCW executed a new collective bargaining agreement on November 9, and ratified the same on November 17, 2021.

Stephen Mackey spoke and stated that Liberty had a first-class team of employees and has shown genuine involvement in the community and employment.

Matthew Holmberg, an employee of Liberty at the 304 Somerville Avenue store, spoke and criticized the store's COVID protocols while describing differences between his picture of the operation at the store from that which had been described by Liberty in its presentation.

Liberty's Response- The Liberty team took exception with the representations made by Mr. Holmberg; however, the Liberty team stated that they heard what Mr. Holmberg was saying. Since the Neighborhood Meeting, Liberty has hired a new General Manager who has an excellent working relationship with the on-site team.